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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a pre-selected input characteristic:

a stored password;

instructions, during a POST procedure when extended—security is enabled, causing the computer system to enter a mode non-responsive to inputs except the preselected input characteristic;

instructions causing a system boot or reboot not to be halted during a POST procedure, by an unauthorized user, by adding a timeout to the password;

instructions causing the processor to compare a first input entered by the user to the pre-selected input characteristic;

instructions causing the processor to ignore an input during a power-on self test procedure unless the first input matches the pre-selected input characteristic;

instructions causing the processor to prompt a user of the computer system for to enter a password when the first input matches the pre-selected input characteristic;

instructions causing the processor to compare a password entered by the user to the stored password; and

instructions causing the processor to process inputs during the power-on self test procedure subsequent to the first input when the password entered by the user matches the stored password.

in response to a password entry, the processor ignores an input other than the pre-selected input characteristic if:

- a) the password is not entered within a pre-specified time period after the prompt; and
- b) the password is entered within the pre-specified time period, but there is no match with the stored password; and

in response to a password entry, the processor processes other inputs in addition to the pre-selected input characteristic if:

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the password is entered within the pre-specified time period and matches the stored password.

- 2. (Cancelled).
- (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 1 wherein: 3. the data-first input corresponds to a keystroke on a keyboard.
- 4. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 3 wherein: the data keystroke corresponds to pressing an F2 key.
- 5. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein: the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to access a system setup procedure.
- 6. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein: the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to request boot functions.
- 7. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein: the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to reboot the computer system.
- 8. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein: the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to switch off a power supply of the computer system.
- 9. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein: the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to access an Option Read Only Memory utility.
- 10. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:

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the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to halt a power-on self test function.

11. (Original) The computer system of claim 1 wherein:

> the processing of inputs other than the first input enables the user to omit a power-on self test function.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a computer system comprising:

ignoring all inputs from an input/output device during a power-on self test procedure except a pre-specified input;

upon detection of the pre-specified input, prompting a user for a password;

causing the computer system to enter a mode non-responsive to inputs, except the pre-specified input, during a POST procedure when extended-security is enabled;

causing a system boot or reboot not to be halted during a POST procedure, by an unauthorized user, by adding a timeout to the password;

comparing the password entered by the user in response to the prompting to a previously-stored password; and

processing inputs other than the pre-specified input during the power-on self-test procedure if and only if the password entered by the user matches the previously-stored password.

in response to a password entry, the processor ignoring an input other than the pre-selected input characteristic if:

- the password is not entered within a pre-specified time period after the prompt; and
- the password is entered within the pre-specified time period, but there is no match with the stored password; and

in response to a password entry, the processor processing other inputs in addition to the pre-selected input characteristic if:

- the password is entered within the pre-specified time period and matches the stored password.
- 13. (Cancelled).

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(Original) The method of claim 12 wherein: 14. the pre-specified input is generated by a keystroke on a keyboard.

- 15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein: the keystroke is a pressing of an F2 key.
- (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein: 16. the processing gives a user access to a system setup procedure.
- 17. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein: the processing gives a user an ability to request boot functions.
- (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein: 18. the processing gives a user an ability to reboot the computer system.
- 19. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein: the processing gives a user an ability to switch off a power supply of the computer system.
- (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein: 20. the processing gives a user an ability to access an Option Read Only Memory utility.
- (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein: 21. the processing gives a user an ability to halt a power-on self test function.
- (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein: 22. the processing gives a user an ability to omit a power-on self test function.
- (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising a storage medium storing 23. data and instructions operable to:

mask all inputs from an input/output device during a power-on self test procedure, except at least one input that corresponds to predetermined data;

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upon reception of an input that corresponds to the predetermined data, transmit a prompt for a password;

cause the computer system to enter a mode non-responsive to inputs, except the at least one input, during a POST procedure when extended-security is enabled;

cause a system boot or reboot not to be halted during a POST procedure, by an unauthorized user, by adding a timeout to the password;

compare the password received from the input/output device to a qualified password; and

if the received password conforms to the qualified password, accept and respond to other inputs from an input/output device during the power-on self test procedure.

in response to a password entry, cause the processor to ignore an input other than the pre-selected input characteristic if:

- a) the password is not entered within a pre-specified time period after the prompt; and
- b) the password is entered within the pre-specified time period, but there is no match with the stored password; and

in response to a password entry, cause the processor to process other inputs in addition to the pre-selected input characteristic if:

- a) the password is entered within the pre-specified time period and matches the stored password.
- 24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

the masking masks from a processor the inputs from an input/output device during power-on self test; and

the reception of the input that corresponds to the predetermined data is performed by the processor.

- 25. (Cancelled).
- 26. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to access a system setup procedure.

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(Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein: 27.

> the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to request boot functions.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

> the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to reboot the computer system.

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

> the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to switch off a power supply of the computer system.

(Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein: 30.

> the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to access an Option Read Only Memory utility.

31. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

> the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to halt a power-on self test function.

32. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein:

> the accepting and responding to other inputs enables the user to omit a power-on self test function.